

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE CITY CONTROLLER

CHRIS HOLLINS, CITY CONTROLLER



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 16, 2026

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Houston City Controller's Office Releases New "Houston Debt Transparency Report" to Make City Finances More Accessible

HOUSTON, TX — Today, the Office of the City Controller announced the release of the Houston Debt Transparency Report, a new, user-friendly resource designed to help Houstonians better understand how the City finances major capital projects.

Compiled by City Treasurer Vernon Middleton Lewis, who oversees the City's investments and leads financing for capital projects, the report breaks down complex financial data into clear, digestible information for residents, stakeholders, and taxpayers.

The report provides a comprehensive overview of Houston's debt obligations, credit ratings, and major capital investments—including infrastructure, airport expansion, and water system improvements—while presenting the information in a format that is accessible to a broader audience.

"This report is about clarity and confidence," said City Treasurer Vernon Middleton Lewis. "Houston manages billions of dollars in debt to build and maintain the infrastructure our residents rely on every day. Our goal was to make technical information understandable so that every Houstonian can see how our city is investing in its future."

The Houston Debt Transparency Report includes the City's total debt obligations, which total approximately \$18 billion, along with breakdowns of how that debt supports critical systems like utilities, airports, and public infrastructure.

Houston City Controller Chris Hollins emphasized that the report is part of a broader effort to increase transparency and empower residents with information about how their tax dollars are managed.

"Transparency is not just about releasing data. It's about making sure people can understand it," said Houston City Controller Chris Hollins. "This report reflects our commitment to accountability, responsibility, and giving Houstonians a real view into how their city is managing its finances."

The release of the report builds on the Controller's Office's ongoing efforts to modernize financial reporting and ensure that residents have the tools they need to engage with the City's budget and long-term financial planning.

The full Houston Debt Transparency Report is available [here](#).

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ABOUT CITY OF HOUSTON CONTROLLER'S OFFICE

Established in 1903, the City of Houston Controller's Office is the cornerstone of financial oversight and accountability for America's fourth-largest city. With a mission to uphold Houston's fiscal integrity and protect residents' tax dollars, the office oversees a broad spectrum of the City's financial operations, including its budget, investments, and debts. Committed to transparency and fiscal responsibility, the Controller's Office is key to maintaining the economic vitality of Houston, contributing to its status as a thriving metropolis for its diverse community.

ABOUT CONTROLLER CHRIS HOLLINS

Chris Hollins, serving as Houston's City Controller since January 2024, brings a dynamic approach to City governance and financial management. With a rich background in legal practice and management consulting, coupled with innovative leadership as Harris County Clerk, Hollins is dedicated to enhancing the city's fiscal practices and community engagement. Educated at Morehouse College, Yale Law School, and Harvard Business School, Hollins's commitment to accountability and service excellence drives his mission to build a financially resilient Houston. Residing in the Third Ward with his family, his work is deeply informed by his strong community ties.